

SITUATION REPORT NO. 13
INCIDENT NO. 2000-016
DATE: June 22, 2000 TIME: 4:30 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, N.D. 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Flooding – Due to a series of thunderstorms since June 12 and high water tables, resulting from eight years of consecutive flooding.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous report.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) in Grand Forks reports that sunshine will be abundant today across North Dakota. Temperatures will also warm to around normal with highs in the mid 70's to low 80's. There is a chance of scattered thunderstorms moving into central and eastern portions of the state tonight but are not expected to reach severe limits. The best chance for thunderstorms tonight are expected south of the I-94 corridor. A few storms could produce small hail along with brief heavy rain. There is a chance of showers and thunderstorms Friday night and Saturday. Precipitation amounts for these showers will vary depending on location between .25 to 1.25 inches. Dry weather is in the forecast from Saturday night until Monday night or Tuesday morning.

Cass County Emergency Management reports that Meadow Park Mobile Home Court has sustained major damage to most of the mobile homes.. Preliminary damage assessments to rural cities are complete. Township damage assessments are still being conducted by the County Engineer. At the Fargodome, pumping water out of the building is scheduled to be completed today. Most roads are open within Fargo and West Fargo. I-94 and I-29 are open. The Cass County Extension Service is distributing flood information packets to the public.

North Dakota State University has damage to almost all buildings. The University library suffered losses to many archived books and records but regardless, summer session classes are underway as of today

The Cass County USDA Emergency Board indicated that rainfall averaged four to five inches throughout the county beginning at about 6:30 P.M. on June 19 and continuing until approximately 3:00 A.M. on June 20. Some hail was reported, but hail damage is minimal compared to the damage created by flooding. Fields were flooded throughout the county.

Additionally, farmsteads and bin sites have been damaged by the heavy rains and remain flooded.

The Cass County Farm Service Agency reports about 500 farms totaling 500,000 acres of land are affected. Crop loss estimates are significant.

The Richland USDA County Emergency Board reports that the most significant damage due to excess rainfall stretched from the Christine area west to the Richland County line. In addition to excess rainfall, the area north of US 13 and west of ND 18 continues to be affected by the high water tables. The ground is so saturated to withstand any additional rainfall. Since June 15 producers have reported rainfall totals between seven and eight inches in the northwestern part of the county. The Board estimates the excess rainfall affected about 35,000 acres of cropland. Crop loss estimates are substantial for soybeans, corn and wheat.

The Traill County Farm Service Agency Agency estimates that 46,170 acres of crop land and 400 farms were affected by the rainfall on June 12. Traill County Emergency Management reported on June 21 that seven bridges and low water crossings were under water at various points.

The Grand Forks Emergency Management reported June 21 that the American Red Cross is doing casework for distressed families throughout the impacted area. Accompanying these teams are mental and physical health specialists.

The Nelson County Extension Agent reports that crop damages from the hail and torrential rain fall are estimated to be \$9 - \$12 million dollars. Continued wet weather is causing fungal diseases in small grains. Erosion has also caused problems with crops and roads. A few farmers did report livestock losses at this time. The wet conditions will cause additional problems for livestock producers as animals are stressed and grazing land is inundated.

The city of Petersburg continues to have problems with the city lagoon. The city is impacted by water on two sides. The high water table is creating basement seepage and sewer back ups.

The city of McVile had a cracked/collapsed sewer line on the east side of town.

Preliminary Damage Assessments are being conducted in the following counties: Bottineau, McHenry, Pierce, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, Eddy, Foster, Wells, Sheridan, Kidder, Griggs, Traill, Cass, Ransom, McLean. Benson and Ramsey County continue to review damages.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous report.

STATE: No change from previous report.

FEDERAL: No change from previous report.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The Salvation Army in Fargo, reports three canteens have been deployed that have served 600 meals. Clothing is being provided through their store for 28 to 30 families of the Community Homes HUD unit. In Grand Forks, the Salvation has dispensed 300 clean up kits, seven power washers, five generators and four shop vacs for resident use. The United Methodist Committee on relief will have 12-25 volunteers arriving in Fargo on June 23 to assist with clean up efforts. Four power washers, four generators and four wet vacs also have been provided. The Lutheran Response is providing counseling to families from the Gilby and Larimore area at the Grand Forks office. They will also plan to provide food to local pantries if needed.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: As of June 21, the Cass County Board of Commissioners issued a flood disaster declaration for damages to public and private property, roads and agricultural land.

The State Aeronautics Commission has provided flood surveillance flight support for state officials.

The office of the Attorney General and the Insurance Commissioner will be establishing a satellite office to assist flood victims with consumer issues in Fargo. This satellite office is designed to provide consumer protection information to the public. The satellite office will be set up in the Cash Wise Foods parking lot starting today.

In several locations since the recent flooding began, the State Emergency Management Director, the Lt. Governor, the Adjutant General and the Governor's Agriculture Policy Director and Legislative Liason have provided briefings for State and local officials to discuss the response and recovery process.

The N.D. Health Department has been consulting with local health officials regarding waste water, water quality and landfill issues related to flooding.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No change from the previous report.
8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No change from previous report.

OTHER: No change from the previous report.

Situation Reports published by North Dakota Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director